duty on various items of goods in view of the rich nations move for abolishing farm subsides; and

(b) whether Government considered that reduction in custom duty may lead to showdown of production in the Indian Industry due to unfair competitions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government Normally reduce custom duty taking into account the State of the economy and the impact that such reduction would have on economic growth and enhanced economic production in the country.

Change in tariff classification

2281. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact ASEAN is insisting on not having "Substantial Transformation Clause" which stipulates a four digit change in tariff classification;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a lot of trade in Asia suffers from under-invoiced imports;

(c) if so, how would mere value Addition or Local Content Rule to confer origin be considered adequate; and

(d) will Government place a White Paper on the floor of the House on these sensitive issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN) : (a) ASEAN had earlier proposed only a percentage of domestic value additon as the criteria for Rules of Origin, however, they have now agreed on simultaneous application of domestic value addition and change in traff classification.

(b) Some cases of under-invoicing of imports from ASEAN countries have been detected in the past.

(c) Simultaneous application of domestic value addition and change in tariff classification has been agreed by ASEAN as the criterion for conferring of origin.

(d) No such proposal is under consideration.

Foreign companies which participated in IITF

†2282. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign companies which participated in the India International Trade Fair organized in the Pragati Maidan in Delhi from 14-27 November, 2005 and the details thereof;

(b) assessment of success achieved from the fair; and

(c) whether it is a fact that foreign stalls were centre of attraction in comparison to Indian stalls and if so, reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN) : (a) 257 companies from 33 countries. The details are given in the Statement *(See* below*)*.

(b) Very Good.

(c) No doubt, foreign stalls were popular. But Indian stalls including State pavillions were also popular and attracted a very large number of visitors.

Statement

1. AFGHANISTAN-Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Commercial Department (1)

2. BRAZIL-Embassy of Brazil (1)

3. CHINA-Genertec International Advertising and Exhibition Co. Ltd. Constituents-Binzhou Double Peaks Graphite Seating Material Co. Ltd. Binzhou Golden Link Com Development Co. Ltd. Binzhou Head Cranskshaft Co. ltd., China Packaging Import & Export Shandong Co.Ltd. Chongquing Huawei Lianlong Science & Technology Co. Ltd., Cixi Ruichang Machinery Industry Co. Ltd Dongjin Tableware (Yang-xin) Co. Ltd., Dongying lanqui Biology Electronic New Technology Co. Ltd. Guanxian Foreign Trading Company, Hangzhou Honhshi Electrical Co.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.